

# Family Investment Program



## Purpose

Iowa's Family Investment Program (FIP) is a cash assistance program to support low-income families with children and to provide services for them to become self-sufficient.

## Who Is Helped

The Family Investment Program helps people with minor children. Families must:

- Meet income and asset requirements.
- Be residents of Iowa.
- Be citizens or legally qualified non-citizens (such as refugees).
- Participate in work, training, or educational services to become self-sufficient.

69 percent of FIP households are one-parent families, while 6 percent include both parents.

25 percent of FIP households provide care to children of relatives. Some of these children are in the child welfare system. Others came to live with relatives as the result of voluntary arrangements with their parents.

The average FIP family is headed by a single Caucasian woman between 20 and 29 years old with a high school or equivalent education. The typical family has two children under the age of 6.

Benefits are limited to a five-year lifetime limit with exceptions in hardship cases.

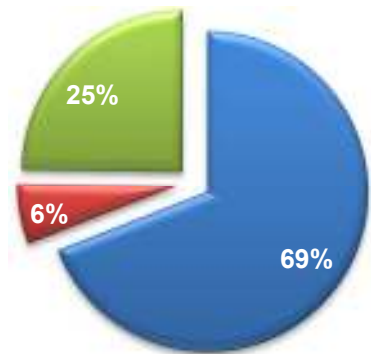
Average length of time on FIP:

- Single parent family: 21 months
- Two-parent family: 9 months
- Caretaker family: 29 months

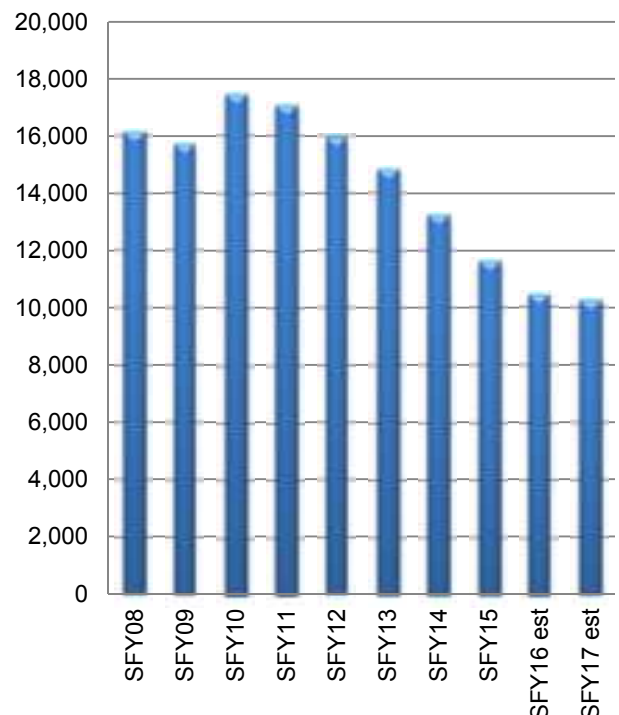
The FIP caseload is currently at a new modern-day low not seen since the late 1960's, when the program was known as Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC).

### FIP Family Makeup SFY15

■ One-Parent (69%) ■ Two-Parent (6%) ■ Relative (25%)



### FIP Average Monthly Cases



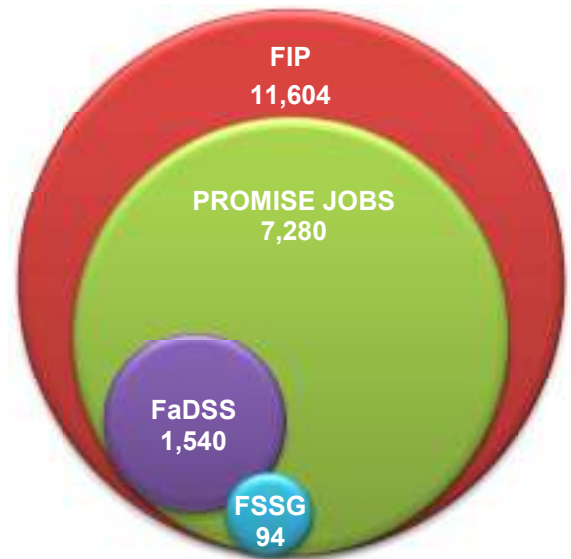
- ✓ A parent with two children must have income after deductions below \$426/month, or \$5,112 annually, to qualify.
- ✓ In June 2015, over 90 percent of individuals receiving FIP also received Food Assistance and 94 percent received Medicaid.
- ✓ About 217 families currently have a hardship exemption from the five-year limit. Hardship determinations are revisited every six months.
- ✓ Every month, about 45 recipients are canceled because of the five-year lifetime limit.

## Services

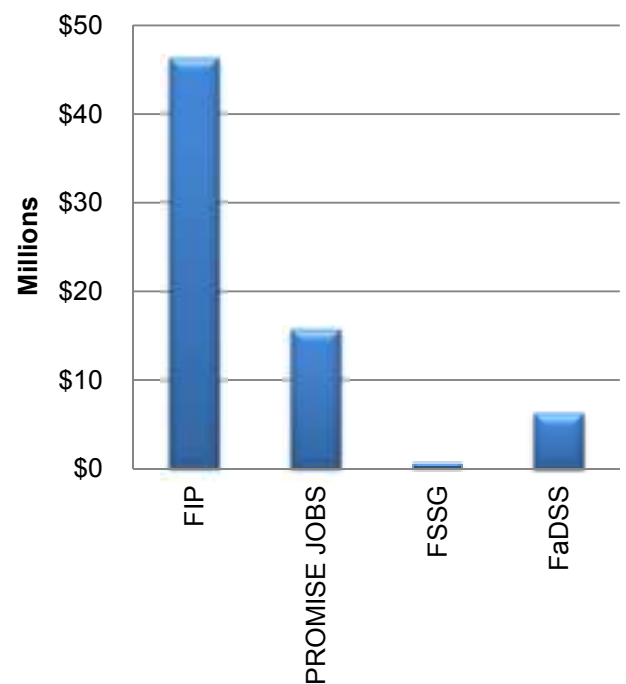
The FIP appropriation funds the following:

- Cash benefits. FIP cash benefits are provided on a monthly basis. Eligibility determination is made by DHS Field Operations staff. DHS staff also make referrals for the PROMISE JOBS program.
  - An average of 11,604 families a month received FIP in SFY15.
- PROMISE JOBS Program. The acronym stands for Promoting Independence and Self-Sufficiency through Employment, Job Opportunities, and Basic Skills.
  - DHS contracts with Iowa Workforce Development (IWD) to provide PROMISE JOBS services.
  - This program provides training, education, and employment services. In addition, the program pays allowances for specified costs, such as transportation, related to participating in program activities.
  - The DHS Bureau of Refugee Services provides PROMISE JOBS services to FIP recipients with refugee status.
  - An average of 7,280 FIP families a month received PROMISE JOBS in SFY15.
- Family Self-Sufficiency Grant (FSSG) Program.
  - DHS contracts with IWD to administer this grant program.
  - This grant program provides up to \$1,000 per family per year to pay for work related goods and services (e.g. car repair, clothing, and employment related certification requirements).
  - An average of 94 FIP families a month received this grant in SFY15.
- Family Development and Self-Sufficiency (FaDSS) Program.
  - The Department of Human Rights administers this program.
  - FaDSS provides intensive home-based case management services to PROMISE JOBS families who have barriers keeping them from achieving self-sufficiency.
  - An average of 1,540 FIP families a month received this service in SFY15.

### Monthly Average Types of Services SFY15



### Expenditures SFY15



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b><u>Before</u></b> receiving a FIP grant, PROMISE JOBS participants must sign a self-sufficiency agreement identifying what they will do to become self-sufficient.</li> <li>✓ FIP recipients receive their monthly cash benefits via an Electronic Access Card (EAC) that can be used anywhere a VISA debit card is accepted. Effective February 1, 2014, the department implemented policy to comply with federal legislation that prohibits participants from using their EAC at liquor stores, casinos, and adult entertainment venues in which performers disrobe or perform in an unclothed state.</li> </ul>	
Goals & Strategies	<p>Goal: Help families become self-sufficient.</p> <p>Strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide an array of employment related supports.</li> <li>• Coordinate with IWD to improve work participation rates.</li> <li>• Participate as a mandatory partner in Iowa's one-stop centers.</li> </ul> <p>Goal: Become more efficient in processing and evaluating applications.</p> <p>Strategy: Install a new eligibility computer system.</p>	<p>Results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In SFY15, 78.6 percent of people who left FIP stayed off the benefit program for at least a year.</li> <li>• Iowa's actual work rate for the first half of FFY15 exceeds the federal requirement by approximately 30 percentage points.</li> <li>• The DHS has selected a vendor to install a new eligibility system called the ELigibility Integrated Application Solution (ELIAS). The system will also generate Food Assistance and Medicaid eligibility and benefit calculations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The current system is outdated and requires significant duplicate entries and work-arounds.</li> <li>○ ELIAS will utilize current technology architecture to enable more accurate and timely eligibility determinations; a more effective way to identify potential fraud and abuse; and an opportunity to link with online service applications.</li> <li>○ In October 2013, the new system was implemented for a portion of the Medical Assistance programs. Work continues to add the remainder of the Medical Assistance programs, FIP, and Food Assistance to the new system.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Legal Basis	<p><b>Federal:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Title IV-A of the Social Security Act</li> <li>• Code of Federal Regulations 45 CFR 260 – 265</li> </ul> <p><b>State:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Iowa Code, Chapter 239B</li> <li>• Iowa Administrative Code, 441 IAC 40, 41, 42, 45, 46, and 93</li> </ul>	